

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application. Please amend, without prejudice, the claims in the current application as provided below in the Listing of the Claims.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the pretreatment of an aqueous solution containing radioactive thorium prior to passing the aqueous solution through a quantity of ion exchange resin at a substantially constant flow rate and continuously for removal of the thorium, comprising the steps of:

diluting the aqueous solution with water; and
removing organic material from the aqueous solution by filtering.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising the further step of adding complexing agents to the aqueous solution.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the complexing agent binds fluoride.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the complexing agent is aluminum.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the amount of water used is sufficient to reduce a concentration of nitric acid in the aqueous solution to 1.0 molar or less.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising the further step of adjusting an acid or base concentration of the aqueous solution.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, comprising the

further step of passing the aqueous solution through activated charcoal.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the aqueous solution is an effluent from a solvent extraction uranium purification process.